

Spire

Barre Congregational Church, UCC
Welcoming & Serving the Quabbin Area
Phone—978-355-4041
Email—barrechurch@gmail.com
website—www.barrechurch.com



February 2016

FROM THE DIACONATE

The deacons are please to announce the selection of the Reverend Dr. Charlotte T. Wright as our Bridge Minister, starting March 1 and continuing until July 15. She will be providing us 15 hours of pastoral service per week likely divided as 1 day for Sunday worship (including preparation time) and 1 day in the church office her work with us include:

- Guiding the congregation through an understanding of part-time ministry;
- Helping the congregation discern what will be the next best transitional path before searching for their next called pastor;
- Making emergency pastoral calls;
- Providing pastoral services for weddings, baptisms and funerals;.
- Attending or providing recourses for church meetings as requested;
- Conferring with the next pastor to arrange for a smooth transition;
- Supporting the Conflict Mediation process being facilitated by Margaret Keyser.



Rev. Wright is an ordained pastor in the United Church of Christ. She has been in the ministry for over 20 years and has specialized in Transitional Ministry. She has received advanced degrees from Hartford Seminary, Andover Newton and University of Hartford. She lives in Shelburne Falls with husband Don and Labrador Retriever Max. During her off hours she enjoys traveling, hiking, movies, and UCONN basketball.

Please join with us in welcoming Pastor Charlotte to our church.

Kevin Fogarty, Chair
Robin Bernard
Toni Brown
Jim Haupt

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CALM THE STORM

The departure of a pastor from a congregation can bring anxiety, uncertainty and a sense of confusion... there may also be sadness, resentment, mistrust and guilt in the mix. So how can we, together, create a positive environment in the midst of all these emotions?

First, we can encourage each other to take a prayerful deep breath and a step back. Slowing down would give us time to assess the situation and help us steer away from quick, reactive, single cause explanations for church concerns. As a result, it will be harder to find fault for any particular difficulty that the church is experiencing. In a culture of “easy answers/quick fixes” operating in a slowed down and prayerful manner goes against the usual way in which most people and congregations want to get things done. Breathing deeply and prayerfully pausing feels counter-intuitive when a congregation is transitioning to something new.

Second, a transition time can be dedicated to listening to the stories members tell about their church. Stories are a way a congregation gives voice to its sense of purpose. Every congregation has prevailing myths, symbols, themes and patterns by which it knows itself and all its connections. Telling stories can recall times of elation, of difficulty, and how the church’s story shifted and resolved itself in those times. It is a way for the congregation to begin retelling who they are and whose they are. We should spend time listening to all the different voices in the congregation, the loudest and the softest. We should create time and space for Barre Congregational Church to share personal and church stories, either in small groups or in larger all-church settings.

Third, in many years as Intentional Interim minister, I have been unable to find a quick remedy to the stress of transitions. As your Bridge Minister for the next 4.5 months, I will strive to be the “non-anxious presence” as BCC moves forward adjusting to a 15 hour part-time minister, The Waling in the Way conflict mediation, and the “what is next” process. I can assure you that we will continue to ministering, as the body of Christ. We will reassure ourselves and others as we gather for worship every Sunday; commune around the Lord’s table; study the Sacred Word; prayerfully discern God’s call as individuals and as a congregation; serve our neighbors in need; mourn our losses; celebrate our blessings; and support each other in love and joy. We will continue to tell the stories about the future hope and promise of Barre Congregational Church. We will bring calmness and whole new to this church as we move forward during this transition time.

Blessings on our journey together,

Rev. Dr. Charlotte Wright

FROM MARGARET KEYSER

Dear members of Barre Congregational Church,

I greet you in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

This past fall I was hired by the Church Committee to work with the congregation to address some challenging issues at the church. Since then I have been in conversation with the Pastor, church leaders and the UCC Conference, to gain an understanding of the problems the church is facing. My involvement came as a result of an initial outreach of the Pastor to the UCC Central Association, followed by the Committee on Ministry's meeting with two groups in the congregation. Their recommendation was to bring in an outside consultant to help in these matters.

My prayers are with you as you will soon start a new transitional period with a Bridge Minister with whom I will share this work. It is my hope that we both will be vehicles of healing and transformation, as well as a support for you as a congregation.

I have the following process in mind:

Continuing conversations with church leaders, and assisting them through difficult issues.

A meeting with the Bridge Minister, to share with her my understanding of the situation at the church so far, and for us to clarify our roles and responsibilities.

A meeting with the congregation soon, to hear from you your feelings and perspectives on various issues. A first meeting will be followed by at least two more, to begin to address and problem-solve issues. These meetings will help create open and constructive communication about important issues, and provide opportunities to share your mutual concerns and hopes for the church.

Listening to individuals who may need to share their feelings and perspectives. Please feel free to be in touch with the Moderator and / or the PPRC Chair, who will put you in touch with me.

Mediating difficult situations between and among members of the congregation. I would encourage members to be open for this, as it will be helpful in the healing process. These are confidential sessions intended and designed to help with listening, mutual understanding, addressing problems, healing and reconciliation.

My hope is that this overall conflict transformation process will help bring healing to the congregation. For this to happen successfully, I invite the whole congregation to participate in this process. Your feelings, perspectives, and ideas are all important.

My prayers are with you during this transition time. May God help you find peace and a way forward during the upcoming months.

Peace and blessings

Margaret Keyser
Margaret Keyser Consulting

Upcoming Events for March

Boy Scout Ham & Bean Supper, Saturday, March 5, 2016 starting at 5:00 pm—7:00 pm with continuous sitting.

Tickets \$10.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children (5 to 12) under 5 Free.

Post 2 Corn Beef & Cabbage Dinner, March 12, 2016 from 5:00—7:00 pm

Pastor Deborah's Retirement Party—March 12, at Hartman's Herb Farm, starting at 4:00 pm

The Healing Quilt

113 four inch squares of material were sent to each family from the Barre Congregational Church.

The squares will be sewn into a quilt in which the center square will be a picture of the church. The squares represent each family who support the church and each other.

The deadline for returning the squares is March 31st. Only 32 squares have been returned to date. If you have misplaced the square sent to your family please call Shirley Lewis, 978-355-9019 she has extra squares.

Food Card Program

Program (like a Visa Card) in \$50.00 denominations in cooperation with Barre Food Store, Summer Street. Cards will be on sale in the church office during Wendy's hours, after church the Church Committee is running a Food Card at 10:45 am during coffee hour or call 978-355-2517. For each card sold the BCC will get 5% returned to the operational account of the church.

You may pay cash or check. Please make checks out to:

Barre Congregational Church
At the bottom put food card.

If you have any comments, corrections or questions you would like make please see or call Lisa Holloway, 978-355-0140 or Sarah Dyer, 978-355-2517.

Women's Fellowship

The Women's Fellowship will be holding a Luncheon Meeting Monday March 7, 2016 at noon. The program will be *Wedding Memories*. Luncheon will be served Movie of wedding fashion show of yore. Bring you wedding pic-

ture or album to share. Please call Irene Stevens if you would like more information 978-355-2227

Quilt Raffle—once again, this year the Women's Fellowship will hold their **Annual Tea** on Saturday, April 9th. During the tea a beautiful quilt made by some members of the Women's Fellowship. If you would like to purchase or sell tickets please see Lois Cooley, 978-355-2367. Tickets are 6 for \$5.00.

Here are three great ways for you to be involved with Heifer this spring!

Day Camp at Heifer Farm

Sessions in April, June, July, August
Monday-Friday | 9am-4pm | Extended care available | \$275

Campers age 7-12 enjoy a week bursting with fun on the farm! Camp activities include plenty of time with the farm animals, scavenger hunts, baking and cooking, games, crafts, and plenty of good old fashioned fun! To register, fill out the attached forms. For any questions and to return forms, email reservations@heifer.org.

Pancakes at the Farm

March 5, 6, 12 & 13
9am-1pm | Reservations Recommended
Admission: \$12 for adults, \$6 for children ages 3-10, free for children 2 and under

Celebrate the maple sugaring season at our annual pancake breakfast! The meal includes pancakes covered in Heifer Farm maple syrup with a side of farm-raised pork sausage, coffee, and juice. After breakfast, tour the farm to see our sugar house, meet the newborn lambs, and explore the Global Village. To make a reservation, call [508-886-2221](tel:508-886-2221) or email heifer.farm@heifer.org.

To All Members of the Church & Committee Chairperson

It is very important that we communicate what is going on in the life of the Barre Congregational Church. Please make sure that all committee meetings or events are posted in the Spire calendar and the Sunday Bulletin any information about your committee be sent to the office to be publishes in the next Spire.

Endowment Manual

The Church Committee has been working on a manual since October 2014 to explain the Endowment Policy of the Barre Congregational Church, with the help of information provided by the UCC.

It was suggested at the last Church Council Meeting on February 21st that the **ROUGH DRAFT** of the manual be emailed to the members of the church for their review. The revisions will then go back to the church committee and within the next several months the manual will be presented to the congregation at either a quarterly meeting or a special meeting to be voted on.

From the Church Committee

The Church Committee would like to update you on what is going on in the building.

- A new photocopy machine is installed a switch from the old one will save us money.
- The office door locks will be replaced due to someone trying to break into the office and the church secretary's things have been gone through. If you have a key to the office please let Wendy know and she will replace it with a new one. Or call Lisa Holloway, 978 -355-0140.
- A chart is being developed to trace the location of the fire alarms so batteries can be replaced.
- Close monitoring of "mouse activity" in fellowship hall with the help of Dave's Pest Control.
- Work with a Grant Writer continues.

The next Church Committee meeting is March 9th at 6:30 in the chapel. This is an open meeting. All are welcome to attend.

As always, please let any Church committee member know if you see anything in need of repair, especially in the kitchen as there are many events scheduled that need everything in working order. Also please remember to leave all rooms that you use cleaner than you found them.

Lisa Holloway, Sarah Dyer, Adam Knipe, Steve Morrall, Bob Swindell, Jack Lathrop & Shirley Lewis

Barre Food Pantry

Barre Food Pantry volunteer opportunities.

The Barre Food Pantry at the Barre Congregational Church on the common in Barre center welcomes volunteers between 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm. Volunteers are needed to help set up the room and sort, date and pre-bag donated groceries for free distribution the next day.

Also, volunteers are needed from 9:30 am to 12:00 noon to help staff the tables, help clients "shop" the food bank offerings and help carry groceries to clients' cars.

The pantry is back to needing donations of clean, heavy **paper one-dozen egg cartons, Canned pasta w/meat sauce, rice or rice mixed, mac & cheese, dry cereal, oatmeal & fruit juices.** Donations can be dropped off at the Barre Congregational Church, the Barre Senior Center, or the Woods Memorial Library.

Note: The Barre Food Pantry would like to encourage clients to bring their reusable grocery tote bags with them when they come to pick up food at distribution.

For additional information call Sonja @ (978) 355-6921 or Chuck @ (978) 355-6463.

Community Friendship Suppers

Come for good food, for good fellowship, for goodness sake! Bring friends or make new ones. Everyone needs a break from cooking once in a while! Suppers are free and open to the public. Free will offerings are added to our Missions income to help those in need close to home and far away. All are welcome!!! The Community Friendship Suppers are from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm. on the third Thursday of each month.

Next Supper is March 21, 2016!!!!

Collector's Report

Loose	110.00
Current	4,581.00
Missions	240.00
Int. offering	20.00
Thursday AA	30.00
Tuesday AA	20.00
Healing Quilt	860.00
Memory Warner Smith	500.00
Hall Rental	75.00
PIF	100.00
Shrove Tuesday	87.00
Total	\$6,623.00

UCC Dues

You will soon be getting a letter requesting that all members pay their UCC dues. There was a question about dues at the annual meeting. The Church Committee researched the question and found that the last time there was a collection of UCC dues was in 2012. We will collect dues from all members (not households) and they will be sent to the UCC. The report on this topic came from Lisa Holloway, chair of the Church Committee.

Offering Envelopes & Pledge Cards

If you have lost your pledge card and would like to fill one out there are some outside the office, in the narthex or you can call the church office , 978-355-4041& one will be mailed to you.

There is a place to check off if you would like envelopes or would like some call Margaret Marshall, 978-355-4510 ,collector will make sure you get them.

Treasurer's Report

Expenses: 1/1/16-1/27/16

Payroll	12,767.00
Office Supplies	1,393.00
Telephone & Internet	402.00
Equipment Maintenance	00
Diaconate	84.00
General Maintenance	1,497.00
Cleaning Supplies	00
Miscellaneous	641.00
Flowers	00
Water & Sewer	125.00
Heat & Gas	1,800.00
Insurance	2,064.00
Electricity	508.00
Snow Removal	590.00
Piano/Organ	765.00
Alarm	480.00
Total	23,116.00

Income	
Loose	516.00
Pledges	12,836.00
Other	1,153.00
Investment Interest	2,877.00
Total	\$17,382.00

Transferred from savings for ordinary expenses: \$3,110.00

Operating deficit \$5,734.00

Beginning balance in checkbook: \$2,504.48

***Loose & Pledges are estimated for the collection on 2/28

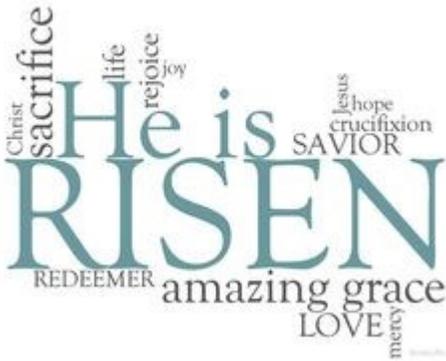
Holy Week Services

Sunday, March 20th - 9:30 am Palm Sunday Service

Thursday, March 24—7:00 pm Service of Tennebrae

Friday, March 25—6:30 pm Silent Supper—Fellowship Hall

Sunday March 27—9:30 am Easter Sunday Service



Easter Lilies & Spring Flowers

Easter Sunday is almost here, Sunday, March 27th!!

Our sanctuary always looks beautiful on Easter Morning adorned with beautiful flowers.

Choice of flowers for this year are:

5 bloom lilies for \$10.00

6inch individual pots of tulips, hyacinths or daffodils (your choice) for \$6.00

Either call: Lynn Hartman—978-355-2015

Or

The church office—978-355-4041

Or fill out the form below and return it to either Lynn or Wendy

Please make checks out to the: Barre Congregational Church -Flowers

Name: _____

Flower type: _____ Cost: _____

In memory of: _____

Names will appear in the Easter Sunday Bulletin.

March 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9-1 Wendy's hours 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	2 9-1 Wendy's hours 6-8 Maplewinds 7:00 Boy Scouts	3 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 AA	4	5 5-7 Boy Scouts Ham & Bean Supper 7:00 AA
6 9:30 Service/ Communion / Sunday School	7 Noon Women's Fellowship Luncheon 6:00 Girl Scouts	8 9-1 Wendy's hours 9:00 Food Pantry set-up 6:00 Bell Choir 6:00 Food Pantry set-up 7:00 Choir	9 9-1 Wendy's hours 10-12 Food Pantry 6:30 Church Committee 6-8 Maplewinds 7:00 Boy Scouts	10 9-1 Wendy's hours 7:00 AA	11	12 4- Pastor Deborah 's Retirement Party- Hartman's 7:00 AA
13 9:30 Service / Sunday school	14 6:30 Diaconnate	15 9-1 Wendy's hours 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	16 9-1 Wendy's hours 6-8 Maplewinds	17 9-1 Wendy's hours 5:30 Community Friendship Supper 7:00 AA	18	19 1-4 Girl Scouts 7:00 AA
20 9:30 Service / Sunday school Palm Sunday	21 6:00 Girl Scouts	22 9-1 Wendy's hours 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	23 9-1 Wendy's hours 6-8 Maplewinds 7:00 Boy Scouts	24 7:00 AA 7:00 Service of Tennebrae	25 6:30 Silent Supper Good Friday	26 7:00 AA
27 8:30 Choir warm-up 9:30 Service/ Sunday school Easter	28 6:00 Girl Scouts	29 9-1 Wendy's hours 6:00 Bell Choir 7:00 Choir	30 9-1 Wendy's hours 6-8 Maplewinds 7:00 Boy Scouts	31 7:00 AA		

Daily Lectionary Scripture References March 2016 (Year C)

Tues., Mar. 1
Psalm 39
Ezekiel 17:1-10
Romans 2:12-16

Wed., Mar. 2
Psalm 39
Numbers 13:17-27
Luke 13:18-21

Thurs., Mar. 3
Psalm 32
Joshua 4:1-13
2 Corinthians 4:16—5:5

Fri., Mar. 4
Psalm 32
Joshua 4:14-24
2 Corinthians 5:6-15

Sat., Mar. 5
Psalm 32
Exodus 32:7-14
Luke 15:1-10

Sun., Mar. 6
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Joshua 5:9-12; Psalm 32
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Mon., Mar. 7
Psalm 53
Leviticus 23:26-41
Revelation 19:1-8

Tues., Mar. 8
Psalm 53
Leviticus 25:1-19
Revelation 19:9-10

Wed., Mar. 9
Psalm 53
2 Kings 4:1-7
Luke 9:10-17

Thurs., Mar. 10
Psalm 126
Isaiah 43:1-7
Philippians 2:19-24

Fri., Mar. 11
Psalm 126
Isaiah 43:8-15
Philippians 2:25—3:1

Sat., Mar. 12
Psalm 126
Exodus 12:21-27
John 11:45-57

Sun., Mar. 13
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126
Philippians 3:4b-14; John 12:1-8

Mon., Mar. 14
Psalm 20
Exodus 40:1-15
Hebrews 10:19-25

Tues., Mar. 15
Psalm 20
Judges 9:7-15
1 John 2:18-28

Wed., Mar. 16
Psalm 20
Habakkuk 3:2-15
Luke 18:31-34

Thurs., Mar. 17
Psalm 31:9-16
Isaiah 53:10-12
Hebrews 2:1-9

Fri., Mar. 18
Psalm 31:9-16
Isaiah 54:9-10
Hebrews 2:10-18

Sat., Mar. 19
Psalm 31:9-16
Leviticus 23:1-8
Luke 22:1-13

Sun., Mar. 20
Sixth Sunday in Lent
Palm/Passion Sunday
Palms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Luke 19:28-40
Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16; Philippians 2:5-11
Luke 22:14—23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

Mon., Mar. 21
Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

Tues., Mar. 22
Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14
1 Corinthians 1:18-31; John 12:20-36

Wed., Mar. 23
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70
Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

Thurs., Mar. 24
Maundy Thursday
Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; 1 Corinthians
11:23-26; John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Fri., Mar. 25
Good Friday
Isaiah 52:13—53:12; Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews
4:14-16; 5:7-9; John 18:1—19:42

Sat., Mar. 26
Holy Saturday
Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9,
19-24
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16; 1 Peter 4:1-8
Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42

Sun., Mar. 27
Easter
Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-
43; John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

Mon., Mar. 28
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
Joshua 10:16-27
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

Tues., Mar. 29
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24;
Judges 4:17-23; 5:24-31a
Revelation 12:1-12

Wed., Mar. 30
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
2 Samuel 6:1-15
Luke 24:1-12

Thurs., Mar 31
Psalm 150
1 Samuel 17:1-23
Acts 5:12-16

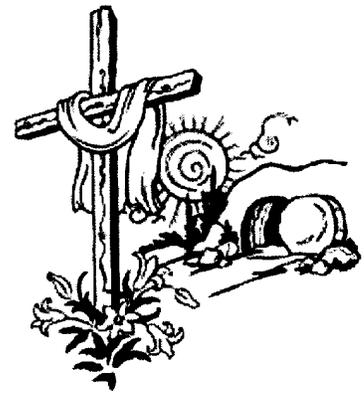


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Surprise! It's Empty!

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. Luke 24:2-3 (NIV)

Based on Luke 24:1-12



A G K Y T Q S P I C E S X E F
 A R D T T C G H R J T V H N F
 F O F R G N D E Y O G W Y T R
 B U Z J I C C H E P L V V E I
 W N W V C N T B W X S L R R G
 G D I D E C V R S O D T E E H
 B L P S S C Y V E R M A O D T
 R H I E B R D B B M S E Y N G
 Y R G D Z B G D A C E F N N E
 I F I R S T B O W E D M I L B
 V D F D G B A R L F A N B R Z
 H X E A X W W C V W R O T E R
 M Y J A C E A I R O Y V O X R
 H I G D D E Y M M S Q N M U K
 Y T R D S K S Z B H P M B F C

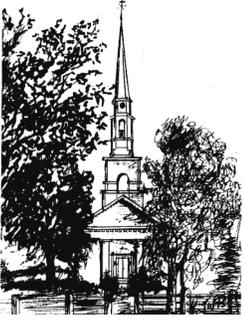
BOWED
 WOMEN
 ROLLED
 TOMB

FACES
 WEEK
 FIRST
 AWAY

GROUND
 FRIGHT
 REMEMBER
 SPICES

MORNING
 STONE
 DAY
 ENTERED

RISEN
 LIVING
 DEAD
 BODY



Barre Congregational Church

P.O. Box 936

Barre, MA 01005

*The world needs the distinct values, vision
and voice of the United Church of Christ-
Continuing Testament.*

Extravagant Welcome. Changing Lives.